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CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTES

CORRESPONDENCE

EASTER CANDLESTICKS.

To the Editor of *THE ARTIST*.

SIR,—In the *ARTIST* for April, you have an article upon a candelabrum in the chapel of the B. V. M., Liverpool. In this article there is an archæological error, so grave, especially in a paper like yours, that I beg to call your attention to it, in the hope that you may see your way to correct it next month. You say “originally the candelabrum” (in Byzantine churches) “supported a lamp . . . the old candelabra in churches were generally used to light the pulpit book rest; in this modern instance the ancient use will be adhered to.” Now archæologically, there is not a word of truth in this statement. It is a romance, born of entire ignorance of ancient custom.

The candlestick in the pulpits referred to *never* carried a lamp and never lit a book-rest. It was called the Easter Candlestick, carried one great candle on Easter Day alone, which candle was lit with great ceremony to symbolise the Risen Light in the life of Christ.

Happily, there can be no mistake about this, as the ceremonial use of the Easter candlestick still remains.

Believe me, faithfully yours,

W. M. LUND,

Chaplain of the Chapel of the B. V. M.

April 15th, 1900.

To the Editor of *THE ARTIST*.

SIR,—Mr. Lund does not deny that the Roman candelabrum carried a lamp; that his is remarkably

similar to Roman examples in its main contours; that it is used for lighting purposes and is placed beside his pulpit. The head and front of my offending, apparently consists in assuming the Byzantine candelabrum to have had an illuminative instead of a ceremonial use. It was, however, very like the present example in general outline; it stood beside the pulpit—at least, so I am credibly informed—but, according to Mr. Lund, its candle was lit but once a year. When, unfortunately, I said it was used to light the pulpit book rest, I intended to convey an idea of its position rather than its purpose. This is the explanation of the romance born of ignorance of the ancient custom.

Whilst gratefully thanking Mr. Lund for his courteous correction, I do not consider, nor does he imply, that it affects the main accuracy of my note.

I am, dear sir,

YOUR LIVERPOOL CORRESPONDENT.

BOOKS

MR. JOHN LANE'S ‘Flowers of Parnassus’ have now reached number 3. Gray's *Elegy* and *Ode*, and Browning's ‘The Statue and the Bust’ have been followed by Mr. Stephen Phillips' ‘Marpessa’ illustrated by Mr. Philip Coanard. If we say that we think the third the best of the series we would not be understood to express the slightest disinclination to re-read the *Elegy* or ‘the Statue,’ but the charming ‘Marpessa’ appears to us to be peculiarly the kind of poem for such a pleasant garb as this. It is, we presume, still copyright, it lends itself admirably to illustration, and is not ‘one tissue of quotations’ as the *Elegy* and the *Ode* are. The illustrations themselves are excellent, full of thought, and poetry, and taste. Though reproductions only, they aspire to competition with the needle and copperplate. And the little poem is one with which we would gladly accept the ‘Custom sweet of living side by side.’ There is a world of beauty in it, and of truth.

NOTES

A CURIOUSLY anomalous position has been created, according to the *Pall Mall Gazette's* correspondent in Rome, by the refusal of the Italian Government to allow Prince Borghese's celebrated Titian to leave the country. The Government has offered £55,000 for the Borghese collection, the foreign offer for the Titian alone is said to be £100,000. Prince Borghese in applying for permission to sell the Titian offered the rest of the collection as a present to the nation. This would have saved the exchequer the sum of £55,000, whilst the Prince would have been the gainer by £45,000, but the offer was refused, and there the matter rests at present.

AT the last meeting of the Council of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers, A. W. Bayes was elected a fellow of the Society.

BIRMINGHAM MUNICIPAL SCHOOL OF ART.—The Union of Teachers and Students held their last meeting of the session on Saturday, 21st April. The President, Mr. E. R. Taylor, gave a short address, dwelling upon the importance of developing individuality and working alone. During the course of a very pleasant evening, a number of tableaux were shown, and a selection of vocal and instrumental music given by members.



FROM ‘FLOWERS OF PARNASSUS’
(London: John Lane)